

As a Flight Attendant Instructor for a commercial airline, I find it essential that cellular phones NOT be used at any time while in flight. The introduction of cell phone use in the cabin will not only increase tension among passengers, it will compromise flight attendants' ability to maintain order in an emergency. Imagine trying to prepare passengers for an evacuation (NOT an easy scenario) and you're getting the 'wait a minute finger wag' while the people in that area miss out on crucial information you are trying to communicate. Also, there is no hard evidence that cell phone use doesn't interfere with navigational instruments. Besides the safety issues, there is also concern for security. The use of cell phones in flight would enable terrorists on board to communicate with one another to execute a hijacking more effectively.

In summation, leaving it up to flight attendants to police the use of cell phones onboard the aircraft would compromise our ability to maintain a safe, secure cabin environment and to conduct emergency evacuations. It would make an already tense cabin environment even more stressful.